

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. **(Currently amended)** A method for screening for a compound that modulates fat storage in a mammal, comprising one of the following three steps:

- (i) identifying a compound which binds to RIP140 or RIP140 target protein;
- (ii) identifying a compound which binds to a complex of RIP140 and a RIP140 target protein; or
- (iii) identifying a compound which modulates the binding interaction between RIP140 and a RIP140 target protein,

and further comprising the step of administering to a mammal a candidate compound identified in step (i), (ii), or (iii) and assessing its effect on fat storage in the mammal.

2. **(Original)** A method according to claim 1, wherein step (iii) comprises:

- a) mixing RIP140, the target protein and one or more candidate compounds;
- b) incubating the mixture to allow RIP140, the target protein and the candidate compound(s) to interact; and
- c) assessing whether interaction between RIP140 and the target protein is modulated.

3. **(Original)** A method according to claim 2 comprising:

- a) contacting a cell containing a nucleic acid molecule comprising a promoter operatively linked to a reporter gene with: (i) a first fusion protein comprising one or RIP140 and a target protein fused to the activation domain of a transcription factor, (ii) a second fusion protein comprising the other of RIP140 and a target protein fused to the DNA-binding domain of a transcription factor; and (iii) a candidate compound; and
- b) assessing the level of expression of the reporter gene,

wherein interaction between RIP140 and the target protein promotes transcription of the reporter gene by activating said promoter.

4. **(Original)** A method according to claim 1 wherein step (iii) comprises:
 - a) contacting a nucleic acid molecule, comprising a target protein-regulated promoter operatively linked to a reporter gene, with one or more candidate compound(s) in the presence of said target protein and RIP140; and
 - b) assessing the level of expression of the reporter gene.
5. **(Currently amended)** A method according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 2 to 4, wherein the promoter controls transcription of a reporter gene with which it is linked in nature.
6. **(Currently amended)** A method according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 2 to 5, wherein expression of the reporter gene gives a detectable signal.
7. **(Original)** A method according to claim 6, wherein the reporter gene encodes a fluorescent protein, an enzyme, a toxic protein or cystostatic protein.
8. **(Currently amended)** A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ 1, wherein said method is carried out in a cell free system, a cell or a tissue.
9. **(Currently amended)** A method according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 2 to 8, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is in the form of a non-viral vector.
10. **(Currently amended)** A method according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 2 to 9, wherein the step of assessing the level of expression of the reporter gene comprises measuring the level of mRNA transcribed from the reporter gene.
11. **(Currently amended)** A method according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 2 to 9, wherein the step of assessing the level of expression of the reporter gene comprises measuring the level of protein translated after transcription of the reporter gene.

12. **(Currently amended)** A compound that is obtained or obtainable by the method of claim 1, which compound: binds to(i) RIP140 or to a target protein, obtained or obtainable by a method of claim 1.; or (ii) a complex of RIP140 and a target protein.

13. **(Cancelled)**

14. **(Currently amended)** A compound that modulates the interaction between RIP140 and a target protein, obtained or obtainable by a method of ~~any preceding claim 1.~~

15. **(Currently amended)** A method according to ~~any one of claims claim 1 to 11, or a compound according to any one of claims 12 to 14,~~ wherein the target protein is selected from AhR, ER, RAR, TR, RXR, VDR, PPAR, SF-1 and DAX-1.

16. **(Currently amended)** A method ~~or a compound~~ according to claim 15, wherein the target protein is selected from PPAR α , PPAR γ and PPAR δ .

17. **(Currently amended)** A method of assessing the effect of a compound according to ~~any one of claims 12 to 14~~ and fat storage, comprising administering the compound to a mammal and assessing its effect on fat storage.

18. **(Currently amended)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to ~~any one of claims 12 to 14~~ and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

19. **(Cancelled)**

20. **(Currently amended)** ~~Use of a compound according to any one of claims 12 to 14 in the manufacture of a medicament~~ A method for treating or preventing a disorder associated with increases or decreased fat storage, said method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a compound according to claim 12 or 14.

21. **(Currently amended)** ~~Use according to claim 19~~ A method according of claim 20 wherein said disorder is obesity or anorexia.

22. **(Currently amended)** A method of altering fat storage in a mammal, comprising administering a compound according to ~~any one of~~ claims 12 ~~to~~or 14, ~~or a composition according to claim 17.~~

23. **(New)** A compound according to ~~any one of~~ claims 12 ~~to~~or 14, wherein the target protein is selected from AhR, ER, RAR, TR, RXR, VDR, PPAR, SF-1 and DAX-1.

24. **(New)** A compound according to claim 23, wherein the target protein is selected from PPAR α , PPAR γ and PPAR δ .